

# The Times-Di

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1912.

## MR. BUTLER'S MISCONCEPTION.

Mr. John Butler has added to the proof of his unfitness for the position of Building Inspector, to which he has been theoretically elevated by Whitte, Folkes and Hirschberg, in his published statement. He misconceives the plain facts published in The Times-Di for an attack on his personal character. He has so little idea of the abstract test of efficiency that he thinks comment on his ability is "unkind and uncalled for." The Times-Di has nothing against Mr. Butler. He has the reputation of being an honest bricklayer. But he has the notion that public position is a reward for personal services. The Times-Di sympathizes with his just aspirations, and rejoices that he has learned a lesson from bitter experience that should make the realization of his aspirations more probable than in the past.

But The Times-Di does not think Mr. Butler is the best man for Building Inspector. It does not think he is worth \$4,000 to the taxpayers of Richmond. It does believe that for the same money Richmond can get a very able trained expert for this position. It publishes elsewhere in this issue what should prove how far short Mr. Butler comes of the qualifications for this important place. It thinks it would be unkind and uncalled for to let the Big Three put Mr. Butler in office without a protest. It would be "unkind" to the people of Richmond who build the houses and pay for the right sort of inspection.

We agree with Mr. Butler that the people of Richmond are "generous." The money they waste on inefficiency should prove that. But we do not think they are quite so generous as to want to pay \$4,000 so that Mr. Butler may "have the opportunity of re-deciding that which an unfortunate accident caused me to lose." We do not think the people are in a mood to accept Mr. Butler's assertion that "he knows he is capable of performing the duties of the office to which he has been nominated." Mr. Butler's faith in himself is not shared by others. For instance, one of Mr. Hirschberg's main campaign arguments was that he knew he was fitted for the Administrative Board, and ought to have a place. Yet one of Mr. Hirschberg's first acts has proved how misinformed he was as to his own ability.

The Times-Di is not distorting, arranging and presenting in an unfair and misleading way any statement about Mr. Butler. It is publishing the facts. But to be perfectly fair to Mr. Butler it offers the following suggestion. Let Mr. Butler refuse to accept the appointment of Building Inspector. This will relieve him from further publicity. Let a competitive examination be held to get a trained man. The Administrative Board would doubtless be greatly relieved. Best of all, and most importantly to The Times-Di, Richmond would get a man who can fill the place and earn the salary.

## BRITISH PRESS ON PANAMA ISSUE.

The editorial tone of the British press on the Panama Canal toll issue is markedly conservative, conciliatory and optimistic. It discredits entirely the early news despatches concerning the impression of popular irritation and resentment over our attitude—that is, our discriminating legislation.

The London Spectator may be taken as fairly echoing the press tone and reflecting public feeling, sentiment and opinion. The subject, that contains a qualified indulgence for the protest of the British government on every point is justified in right and to logic. In its argument in support of Mr. Edward Grey, it carries us not a peg to stand upon, either in moral or under precedent or international law.

But it has "the liveliest expectation" that the protest will make a "valuable impression on the United States." It believes that a settlement will be quickly reached, and it has great hope that President Wilson's influence will contribute to that end, as far as it knows. "Mr. Wilson has not committed himself publicly to any definite opinion on the question of the canal act." In giving these reasons for the belief and the hope, that is, in it, and immediately following, is an observation regarding Mr. Wilson, the Spectator says:

"With Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt it is otherwise. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that many of the influential American journalists and public men, Mr. Root—men whose high position and integrity are universally acknowledged—are sincerely convinced of the justice of the British claim. The reason, however, of Mr. Edward Grey's position is also acknowledged in advance as a large proportion of the most reputable American newspapers. We should be indeed, feel justified in using language half as strong about the Panama Canal act as has been used by many American newspapers."

Commenting on Mr. Edward Grey's expression of "the extreme reluctance

he has felt in formulating views at variance with those of the American government as to the canal," our London contemporary declares "we shall all share his feelings, and for the same reasons," and, resuming, assures us that Englishmen have never watched Americans at work with greater admiration than during the progress of construction of the canal. Then, in conclusion:

"We have seen difficulty after difficulty conquered and the opening continually brought nearer by some of the most brilliant engineering the world has known. We can understand the enthusiasm and sympathy with the pride with which they speak of 'our canal.' In that sense it is unquestionably their canal. But we can recall no case of interpreting a treaty in which we felt more positive than we do now that the facts admit of only one interpretation. We hope, and we firmly believe, that the great event of opening the canal next year will not be marred by any remaining vestige of misunderstanding between the American nation and ourselves."

The spirit of this excerpt, and especially the closing sentence, should awaken hearty and sincere response in the conscience of every American with whom regard for solemnly pledged faith and respect of the world and the preservation of American self-respect and national honor stand higher than profit.

## CAROLS INSTEAD OF TORPEDOES.

The Times-Di has heard much about Richmond's holy Christmas. It is publishing letters from hospitals, from the friends of sick folks, and from individuals who rightly regard mere barbaric noise as a poor way of celebrating Christ's birthday. The Times-Di agrees that the holiday season is a sad time to add to the unhappiness of the sick, and that beauty and dignity should be the symbols of a holy time. But The Times-Di also believes that there are too many people in Richmond who are quick to say "don't" and prohibit what joy there is in noisy fun, and not enough who can furnish a substitute. What do you expect young people to do? Go home and play dominoes? Is darkness and silence and gloom any better for Christmas than fire and laughter and noise? By all means protect the sick, but by all means, too, protect the well. Be constructive. Give the children some beautiful way of showing their happiness.

In this line, we desire to amplify a suggestion made yesterday about trying to have carol singing in the streets Christmas Eve. The story of how this old custom was begun in St. Louis is full of simple beauty. Several of the leading society women of that city trained groups of children in the sweet English carols. The churches also furnished their hands. On Christmas Eve they set forth about 6 o'clock. The little ones carried lanterns that threw out yellow and green and red lights to show them the path to this modern fairytale. Where did the path lead? To the houses that had candles burning in the windows, for the good people of St. Louis had followed this pretty custom of showing their awed with welcome the carol singers. Hundreds of homes and hotels and clubs put candles out to guide the small carolers. When they came with their tender, tuneful voices raised in such sweet songs as:

"Holy night, peaceful night,  
All is dark save the light  
Yonder, where they sweet vigils keep  
Over the Babe who in silent sleep  
Rests in heavenly peace,"

children missed their engagements to follow and hearken, and gifts of money tinkled to the walks beside them. Hotel guests forgot their loneliness. The candle-lit windows and the flickering lanterns and the sweet voices made a real holy-day. Best of all, the money was given to the Children's Aid Society.

There is no reason why Richmond should not have this beautiful spectacle instead of the noisy carnival. But Richmond people seem to prefer to free and find fault instead of working for the children.

## HIGHER WAGES FOR STEEL WORKERS.

The announcement by Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Company, that increases in wages would be voluntarily granted to some unskilled workers is in accordance with the enlightened policy which has recently characterized this corporation. The widespread public condemnation, which several years ago was given to the long hours and unsatisfactory working conditions in blast furnaces and steel mills was promptly tested by the change of the steel trade, and after careful consideration, changes were ordered which directly related to the work and the twelve-hour working day. As the result of recent governmental investigation, the labor costs of turning out men and steel products, together with the public attention to the steel industry, have been so increased that much higher rates of pay could be given steel workers without interfering with reasonable returns to the capital invested in the industry. Actual increases as to working in the steel plants have also increased the number of unskilled workers, the number of whom are recent immigrants of the children of Italy.

The native American skilled workmen have been largely displaced by the foreigner, and the displacement is improved machinery and the concentration of labor from Southern and Eastern Europe. Labor leaders have attempted to counter these tendencies by organizing the workers of mills and furnaces into unions, and the unfavorable attitude of the steel corporation has been demonstrated in working and living conditions has caused great dissatisfaction, and has affected

a fertile field for the activities of such revolutionary propagandists as the Industrial Workers of the World. It has also been made the basis for advocating minimum wage legislation. As a consequence, the United States Steel Corporation has undoubtedly considered it wise to offset these radical tendencies by improving conditions and by rendering its labor forces more stable and contented. Such a policy is also of advantage in enabling the steel mills to more satisfactorily recruit workmen for the skilled and responsible positions.

This voluntary action of the United States Steel Company also has an interesting political aspect. Several months ago Republican campaign managers were warning the wage-earners of the country that the election of Woodrow Wilson would mean reduction in wages, curtailment of employment and a general industrial disaster. The advance in the rates of pay of the unskilled toilers in iron and steel plants affords a striking contrast to these calamitous predictions.

## THE ALBANY PILGRIMS.

Not even Chaucer's immortal "Canterbury Pilgrims" had a livelier, spicier, merrier time than have the stout-hearted crusader crusaders trudging through the Christmas snows to Albany. You may not think the Army of Six need the vote, but certainly they have staged a pleasantly human bit of romance. When the nervous, theatrical, introspective twentieth century can be picturesque in its faith, and put fun in its creeds, why the old world isn't such a dull place after all.

Just think what a jolly good piece of fun this "hike" has been. It reads like a ray legend of the middle ages, when devout souls went into pagan lands to prove their faith, and chivalrous knights wore black patches on their eyes in honor of their ladies until they performed some feat of derring-do. Who wants to read about "Don Quixote" when he can read about bold "General" Rosalie Jones and watchful "Surgeon-General" Lavina Dock leading their band into Stockport Centre after a "quick, easy march of five miles"? There is something cheerfully humble about five miles a day. It has the easy-going humor that America loves.

And then how admirably Stockport Centre lived up to its name. It turned out on mass to give the invaders "an explosive and startling welcome." One turbulent Stockportian fired his shotgun without warning, and every last one of the heroines "jumped in terror." That's rich and fragrant with humanity, a note that Oliver Holmes or James Russell Lowell could have done into sparkling verse, and made real literature. But the best touch of all, the sweet, gay, debauch ending of the day, was when the suffragettes, undaunted by five stern miles, forgot their troubles and their cause and joined a group of children in joyous coasting on their sleds. Can you beat that in history? Doesn't it make you rejoice that you live in a country where women are safe and life is sunny?

This is the true romance. These women have showed how serious things can be taken with zest and fighting spirit. Love, too, has played its part in this jolly hike. A newspaper correspondent has fallen victim to the charms of one crusader and joined her as bodyguard and squire. Dame Nature smiles. Women like this can take care of themselves, vote or no vote. How many men would have the nerve to plunge through winter for any political faith in the land? The suffragist Army of Six is a band of "good sports." They have devotion and humor. Their "hike" has helped them, and certainly helped the country, to understand the new spirit of the times.

The bonfires burning across Virginia to-night mean the light of a better day and the warmth of a great welcome.

## Why not start a campaign for swatting the grip germ?

Now that Cupid has joined the New York guffiganist crusade to Albany, why do they want a vote?

"Pierpont Morgan says you cannot corner money. Perhaps not, but you can secure it so that it will go in its hole and stay there," declares the Greensboro Record. Our experience is that it is the hole and stays there.

The party's post will carry eggs, but not explosives. That must mean fresh eggs.

Bulgaria is calling more men to the colors. It has been demonstrated that Bulgaria uses colors that don't run.

Congressman Glavin says Wilson's head is perfectly clear on finance, but he also knows why our pockets are perfectly empty of finance?

The "Big Three" thought Christmas a good time for plum pie.

John D. Rockefeller's latest advice is "save your pennies." How can we when John saved 'em first?

Admiral Dewey says he has managed to live to seventy-five by staying away from banquets. Peace, too, has its virtues.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

From the Hickoryville Clarion.  
Mr. and Mrs. Anson Frisby has got a new three-legged piano from the city. She says it is a grand piano, and maybe it is, but we can't tell until we hear it play. It has got a piano attachment. Anson ran a porus plaster through the piano the other night instead of the roll, which hadn't come yet, and the piano played a hot tune. Must have been a mustard plaster.

The first copy of the season showed at Tibbitt's hall last Thursday night. It was a very auspicious occasion, and polite society turned out en masse. The copy was "East Lynne," which is one of the best-known of musical comedies which have appeared in New York, Boston and Kalamazoo and other large cities. Our dramatic critic is not on duty to-day, being at home doing the washing. There was one regrettable feature about the entertainment. The audience threw eggs at the villain, who was quite badly injured. It was a disgrace to the town. Not that a man hasn't the right to throw eggs if he wants to. That is one of our constitutional rights, but a line should be drawn. Willie Tumms, pitcher of the home team, threw hard-boiled eggs.

Friends are sending fruit to Grandma Wiggins, who is very poorly at this writing. Ye Editor sent a can of squash. She is expected to pass away soon. Hank Tumms says William Tibbitts, the groceryman, ought to have a leather medal for putting that patent wire cover over the cracker barrel and locking the blind robbers up in a drawer back of the counter. Hank spends his time in Ezra Bibbins's harness shop these days instead of the grocery.

When it gets so Ye Editor of this paper has got to borrow a chew of tobacco from the society editor and wear the devil's suspenders to a church social, it ought to be a sufficient hint to the delinquent subscribers. A few first-class funerals would do this town good.

A postal card arrived at the post-office last week for Miss Angela Bibbs. There is no such person here as you know of, but the card says that a young man will call on her at no distant date. Perhaps she is some new trimmer coming to town. We hope not, for there are enough trimmers here now. One of them trimmed Ye Editor out of \$3 for his wife's bunnet and then refused to take an adv. in the paper.

Mr. Amos Budd and five children are back from West Hickoryville. Mr. Budd expects soon to accept a lucrative position with a lightning rod concern. That is, he will accept it if he can get it. Hank Tumms says old man Hicks is the best horse shoe pitcher in this town. Guess Hicks must have a mortgage on Hank's place the way Hank is pressagening for him these days. There are no grass widows in this town, but there are enough old widows to make up for the deficiency.

## The Old Woollen Stocking.

How dear to our hearts are the scenes of our childhood.  
When fond recollections present them to view.  
The church Christmas tree with the candles upon it.  
The Sunday school kids and the presents they drew.  
Be we never cared on the night before Christmas  
To get all our gifts, for we'd much rather wait.  
And see bright and early, the following morning,  
What Santa had left in the sock by the grate.  
The old woollen stocking.  
The spacious old stocking.  
The much-battered stocking that hung by the grate.

How oft we have seized it with hands that were nervous.  
Though we knew exactly each thing that was in it.  
For we'd carefully watched it all through the long night.  
Way down in the toe there would be a big orange.  
Mixed candy a few, an occasional date.  
Some raisins and pecans were also contained in.  
The old Christmas stocking that hung by the grate.

But methods have changed as the years have rolled past us.  
No longer we hang the old woollen sock.  
Now each year at Christmas we start into four.  
And each of our finances we're wont to take stock.  
We have to spend days on the annual problem.  
And ere we have solved it, each year sure as fate  
We hang up our watches and overcoats also.  
To fill other stockings that hang by the grate.

The new Christmas stockings.  
Silk openwork stockings.  
Fine five-dollar stockings that hang by the grate.

## Voice of the People

Protect Sick From Noise.  
To the Editor of The Times-Di:  
Sir—I read in your paper this morning an article headed "Noise Disturbs Hospitals" and that the hospital authorities are considering applying to

At Sunrise.  
If one might say the word aright  
Which flashes forth the vision clear,  
The balm of hope, the light of fear,  
The sweet deliverance from the night.

The rising and the pulsing sea  
Of life, the larger realm of love,  
And all the mighty things that prove  
The gift of immortality.

That word should be a tokening  
Of days that may ere long arise  
When men akin unto the skies  
Shall bring to us their beckoning:

And unto each of us be born  
A brother of the lowly birth:  
A solace for the sensitive earth—  
The vision of a Christmas morn.

BENJAMIN C. MOOMAW,  
Savannah, Va.

Our Noisy Christmas.  
To the Editor of The Times-Di:  
Sir—I trust you will give me space to express my views, shared, if I can judge from the expressions I have heard from others, by a large proportion of our people, on the way Christmas was celebrated in our city yesterday. I have been a resident of Richmond for almost a quarter of a century, and have viewed with the greatest pride her rapid strides in every direction, but I must confess, when I heard the continuous bombarding going on from early morning 'till late at night I could but say to myself: Is this a city growing rapidly to metropolitan

The woman that comes between a man and his wife is allus three times as ugly as his wife. If it was a race between a turtle and a plumber's boss I'd bet on his turtle.

## A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL

[Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.]

With sympathy and kindness to tell it where to go.  
It achieves a wondrous miracle in fighting want and war.



It can purchase food in plenty to break a cruel fast.  
It can build a woolly barrier to fend the winter blast;  
It can kindle warmth in hearts and hearths to nodd the bitter cold;  
It can soothe the helpless destitute and comfort young and old;  
It can lighten loads of sorrow, it can ease the grinding debt.



It can buy a simple supper for an overfed coquette.

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

Two Dates.

Please tell me what days of the week were April 4, 1893, and November 1, 1899.  
R. A. SILLIS.  
Both Tuesdays.

Torpedoes.

Who introduced the use of torpedoes in naval warfare?  
Major J. A. Hamilton claims the honor for General Stephen Elliott, of the Confederate service.

Direct Primary.

How long has the "direct primary" been in use in New York?  
R. G. ROBERTS.  
Since October 6, 1911.

Horseshoeing.

Will you give me the title and the publisher of some standard work on horseshoeing?  
GEO. WILSON.  
There is nothing better than "Practical Horseshoeing," by F. M. H. Appleton & Co., New York City.

Richmond Library Society.

I have a large collection of books with the stamp of the Richmond Library Society, and have seen a good many others. How did this association break up?  
The Amicable Society was formed here in 1788, numbered in its membership many of the foremost people of the city, and existed for about seventy years. It accumulated a good deal of money through the time and aided several excellent institutions, giving some \$5,000 to the Female Orphan Asylum, etc. The Library Society was formed as a sort of offshoot of the Amicable Society, and kept up a reading room for about twenty years, with Thomas Nicholson as librarian. Then interest seems to have declined, and the library was discontinued, and the books were distributed among the members. Judah Hay, who had a very large collection of books here before the war, must have purchased a considerable part of the old library, as his collection contained

## University of Virginia.

My father was a student of the University of Virginia in 1865-6. Will you tell me what was the size and standing of the school at that time?

T. S. B.

It had sixteen professors and 258 students that year. Both positively and relatively to other schools of the date its "standing" was of the highest, quite as good in all regards as it is to-day.

## Line Fence.

The line fence between my neighbor and me is wholly on my land. Is he obliged to contribute to keeping it up?

No.  
SUBSCRIBER.

## Virginia Mayors.

Please give me the names of the Mayors of Newport News and Staunton.

R. R. R.  
H. B. Semmes, H. H. Way.

## DANCE AT "CASTALIA"

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Boocock Entertain Large Number of Friends.

[Special to The Times-Di.]

Keswick, Va., December 27.—"Castalia," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Boocock, was the scene of a delightful Christmas dance on Christmas night. The house was artistically and elaborately decorated in evergreen and big red Christmas bells were hung from every possible place, making a blaze of cheer. A beautiful Christmas tree occupied one end of the large hall, and in front of this was a table on which stood a big bowl of eggnog. After the guests had assembled, as is the custom at Castalia, all went below to the servants' hall, where a big tree was ablaze with many candles, and while all the servants on the place were assembled to enjoy the tree, with its many lovely and useful presents, to sing old plantation songs and enjoy a feast. After the guests had enjoyed these songs they returned to the upper floor and had great fun and excitement over a "spider-web" party. Two large parlors were cleared for dancing, which was greatly enjoyed. At midnight a delicious supper was served, and the dancing continued until early morning. Those present were Judge and Mrs. Duke, Mr. and Mrs. Nevin, Master Nevin, Prof. and Mrs. Maphis, Mr. and Mrs. Will Money, Miss Helen Money, Mr. and Mrs. Emily Money, the Messrs. Money, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. McGhee, Mr. Frost, Dr. and Mrs. Thurman, Mrs. Shackelford, Albert Bolling, Mr. and Mrs. Everett, Mrs. Moritz, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Greenough, Mr. and Mrs. Magruder, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Morris, Mrs. Boocock, Misses Satterfield, Mrs. Chapman, Mr. Leslie Robinson, Mr. Lawrence Boocock, Master Carroll Boocock, Mr. and Mrs. Boocock.

## Marriage Announcement.

[Special to The Times-Di.]

Buchanan, Va., December 27.—Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Rogers, of this place have announced the marriage of their daughter, Blanch, to Willie Christopher Correll. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. J. S. Stevenson, in Washington, D. C., on Tuesday. After a brief stay in the capital city, Mr. and Mrs. Correll will be at home in Rockingham, N. C.

## Injuries Prove Fatal.

Blackburg, Va., December 27.—Bob Smith, the teamster, employed at V. P. I., who was accidentally shot by Ballard Bishop, Christmas Day, died at the Jefferson Hospital, Roanoke, last night. His body was brought here to-day for burial Saturday. Bishop is under bond for shooting, but it is likely he will be released on plea of accident.

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